

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

December 23, 2018 ~ 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Words of Greeting Jean Heberling, Liturgist

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Sharing of Opportunities, Joys and Concerns

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude Organ & Piano Duet

Lighting of the Candles

Introit # 440 *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

**Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.**

Call to Worship *(Luke 1)*

Leader: And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor
on the lowliness of his servant.

**People: Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed; for the Mighty One
has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

Leader: His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

**People: He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.**

Leader: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things.

**People: He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors.”**

*Hymn # 185 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You look with favor on the poor while we treat the lowly with disdain. You scatter the plans of the proud while we aspire to power and privilege. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us what you desire, so that our hearts may leap with joy at the coming of our Savior; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Terry Brown Family

**A Candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above,
a baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth
for Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.**

*Sharing of the Peace

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer *(debt...and debtors...)*

Choral Amen

Ministry of Giving in Response to the Word

Offertory

Organ & Piano Duet

*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“Darkness into Light”

By Mary McDonald

“Come to the Light”

“Come, All Ye Faithful”

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

Sing, choirs of angels. Sing in exultation.

O sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

“Hear the Angels Sing”

“Sing We All Noel!”

Ken Doak - soloist

“Candlelight Christmas Canon”

“Rise Up, Children, Arise!”

“Darkness into Light”

“Come to the Light”

(Reprise)

“Hallelujah! Lord of Light!”

**Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of Light!
Lord of giving and forgiving, bless us on this holy night.
Christ, our Savior, bless'd Redeemer,
Joy from heav'n to earth come down.
Praises sing to God, our Father,
For this One who wears a crown.**

**Hallelujah! Praise the Father, Giver of eternal Light!
Glory to the Son of Mary, born to us this holy night.
Sing to God our songs of praises. Hallelujah! Let us sing!
Raise to God our joyful chorus,
“Glory to the Newborn King!”**

*Benediction

*Postlude

*(*All who are able, please stand)*

PLEASE JOIN us in the ritual of friendship by signing the attendance pads that are at one end of each of the pews. If you are here for the first time, we would appreciate it if you would give us your local telephone number. Please help yourself to a church brochure, a *Welcome Packet* or a copy of our newsletter, *Uplift*. These are available at the back of the church. We thank you for joining your voice to ours in sacred worship.



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSVILLE

*“a community of believers, called by God, led by the Holy Spirit
to know Christ and to make Christ known”*

Rev. Timothy R. Monroe

137 N. Walnut Street ~ Blairsville, PA 15717-1349

Church office 724-459-7991

e-mail: upchurch@r-church.com; website: www.r-church.com

Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Dr. Roger D. Petersen

THE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS for this morning's service are Liturgist, Jean Heberling; Ushers, the Tonkin Family; Projector, Blake Tonkin; Audio, Elizabeth Bruner; Organist, Marilyn Neal; and Director of Music, Cindy Borbonus.

THE BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS in the sanctuary this morning are given in memory and honor of loved ones by many in the congregation. A special thank you to Jen Borbonus and the deacons for their work in arranging to have the flowers for the Christmas celebration!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP services are scheduled. Early worship will begin at 7:00 p.m. The service will include candlelight and the sacrament of communion. A traditional candlelight and communion service will be held at 11:00 p.m. All are welcome to worship with us.

OUR CHOIRS will take a rest from rehearsals this week and resume Wednesday, January 2nd.

THE 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up at the back of the sanctuary. They have been placed in alphabetical order for your convenience. If we missed you or you would like to have envelopes, please contact the church office, 724-459-7991.

THE 2019 FLOWER CHART is hanging in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to order flowers for Sunday worship, please use the chart to sign-up for your choice of date. Flowers are \$20/Sunday and checks can be made payable to the Board of Deacons.

NEXT SUNDAY, our worship service will be Lessons and Carols. We hope you will plan to join us.

WE WILL CELEBRATE the sacrament of Holy Communion tomorrow during the evening worship services. Please take time to prepare to receive and share the sacrament.

THE PRAYER CHAIN is coordinated by the Adult Sunday School Class. If you have a prayer request or know of someone's need for prayer, please contact Nancy Campbell or the church office. Requests are kept in confidence.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS and treasurers are reminded that reports are requested for the annual Congregational Meeting which will be held Sunday, January 27, 2019 following worship. Please have reports to the church office by Sunday, January 20th. If you have any questions or need information from the office, contact Jill during office hours at 724-459-7991 or email at upchurch@r-church.com.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE continues to seek volunteers to be trained on the sound system and projector to substitute when regular techs are not available. Please contact Elaine Jellison if you are interested.

OFFICE HOURS this week will be abbreviated. Please call before you stop by. The office will be closed Monday through Wednesday, December 24-26th in observance of the Christmas holiday. Please have any announcements for the December 30th bulletin into the office by Thursday, December 27th.

REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS:

Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Cantata <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>
Monday		<i>Christmas Eve</i>
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight & Communion Worship
	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight & Communion Worship
		Office Closed
Tuesday		<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
		Office Closed
Wednesday		Office Closed
Thursday	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall reserved
Sunday	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Lessons & Carols



CHRISTMAS CANTATA PARTICIPANTS

CHOIR MEMBERS

Sopranos

Peg Lockard
Bobbi Monroe
Janet Smith
Janeen Swope
Vicky Westley

Bass

Matt Cyphert
Dave Hiltabidle
Brent Ritchie

Altos

Mary Anzelone
Karen Cyphert
Karen Kerin
Beverly Lindsey
Judy Trimble

Tenors

Ken Doak*
Pastor Tim Monroe

NARRATORS

Lynnette Anderson and Dennis Gould

ACCOMPANIST

Marilyn Neal

DIRECTOR

Cindy Borbonus

**soloist*